

DDYJ Working Perpetual Counts

Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ), already a star in the Defense Distribution Center's (DDC) focus on inventory, will not settle for anything less than perfect. To reduce their denial rate, DDYJ raised the bar in February 2003 and reset the perpetual count trigger from a remaining balance of five to a balance of 15 or less. The perpetual count requires a count after a pick is made when the balance is at or below that "trigger point." A denial occurs when a Material Release Order (MRO) is received in the Distribution Standard System (DSS) and DSS reports sufficient quantity on hand to fill the order, but when the location is checked, and a quantity error is discovered.

"Since we changed our trigger, we've noticed a marked reduction in the number of denials," said CDR Kent Vredenburg, SC, USN, Commander, DDYJ. "Fewer denials mean less of an impact and inconvenience to our customers."



DDYJ believes more improvement is possible. "We feel more could be accomplished toward improving inventory accuracy by conducting quality reviews of perpetual counts and linking those results to individual employee performance," said Thomas Johnson, DDYJ Inventory Chief. "In November 2003, we began quality checks of perpetual counts. Since then we have improved the accuracy of perpetual inventory counts by more than 16 percent. As a result, perpetual count errors are no longer the leading source of inventory adjustments."

The count is supposed to be for what is left in the bin but sometimes the warehouse person counts the balance in the bin plus what he/she has just picked creating an adjustment. The refresher training will ensure the right material is counted every time.

BZ, DDYJ! Keep up the good work!

Ergonomic Hydraulic Pallet Lifts Get Good Comments From OSHA and Bin Packers

By Doug Imberi, DDJC Public Affairs

"All the packers love them," said bin packer Rick Hartgrove. He is talking about the three hydraulic pallet lifts installed in the high velocity bin packing area. Hartgrove is a member of the bin ergonomics team that recommended installation of pallet lifts as a measure to reduce back injuries from lifting boxes that weigh up to 60 lbs.

The pallet lifts allow packers to adjust the height of pallets to the same level as their packing tables and slide boxes onto pallets which are taken to the freight terminal via forklifts.

Previously pallets were stacked at a height close to the table height. However, when situations required a second layer of boxes on a pallet, lifting was required.

Hartgrove said the difference is like day and night comparing the pallet lifts to the method previously used. Ergonomics



Packer Walterio Guadalupe slides a packed box onto a pallet supported by an ergonomic pallet lift. The lift eliminates bending, twisting, and lifting motions which can cause back problems.

team leader John Clausen pointed out how the pallet lifts received favorable comments during a recent Occupational

Safety and Health Act (OSHA) inspection. "They said they were an excellent tool for preventing injuries," said Clausen.

The ergonomics team also revamped the parcel post area to cut down on steps and movements to transfer boxes from collection chutes to pallets. "A take away conveyor was fabricated by the Automated Material Handling System's maintenance crew and equipment was moved closer, within reach of the person working there," said Clausen. "It made it a lot more convenient."

He credits the AMHS branch with the changes. "They made it happen," said Clausen. In addition to Hartgrove and Clausen the Ergonomics team also includes Alice Yvanes and Roger Downey.